

share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

**YIMBY AWARD TO STEVEN
GARTRELL**

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, March 8th, I had the privilege of addressing one of the most worthwhile organizations in the district that I am privileged to represent—CAN—DO. Led by Josephine McNeil, CAN—DO does extraordinarily important work in trying to get affordable housing of various sorts—rental, ownership, group homes—placed in the City of Newton, where I live. This requires a great deal of work, both in compiling together the finances at a time when money was not adequate for these purposes, and in dealing with neighborhood resistance which generally turns out to have been unjustified, but which was nonetheless strong in some cases.

In addition to being able at that event to praise the work of Josephine McNeil, I had the chance to share the evening's speaking program with Steven Gartrell, who is just retiring as Director of the Housing and Community Development program in the City of Newton. He won the YIMBY Award from the organization: the "Yes, In My Back Yard!" honor. As the Community Development Director for the City of Newton for many years, Steve Gartrell exemplified public service that was compassionate and responsible. Under his leadership, serving several mayors, the city spent its community development block grant money wisely and well. Steve Gartrell did the most good that it was possible to do with the funds made available to him from the federal government. I am glad to be able to point to the expenditure of community development funds under Mr. Gartrell as an example of how government at the federal level can best enable good work at the local level, and I congratulate Steve Gartrell for this well-deserved award, and Josephine McNeil for recognizing him by granting it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, March 5, 2009, I was not present for a recorded vote. Please let the record show that had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

Roll No. 106—yea.

EL SALVADOR ELECTIONS

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, El Salvador is a good friend of the United States.

And after we suffered the attacks of 9/11, most Salvadorans kept us in their prayers. But one group felt differently.

The FMLN, a pro terrorist, Left wing party in El Salvador, issued a communiqué that the U.S., because of its policies, was itself to blame for being attacked. The U.S. embassy publicly denounced that declaration, yet the FMLN is now poised to possibly enter into the government in El Salvador.

Four days after 9/11, the FMLN had a march in their capital city to celebrate the 9/11 attack by Al-Qaeda and to burn the American flag. The leader of that march was Salvador Sanchez Ceren, who today is the FMLN's candidate for El Salvadoran Vice President.

El Salvador's election is on Sunday. If an ally of Al-Qaeda and Iran comes to power in El Salvador, the national security interests of the United States will require certain immigration restrictions and controls over the flow of the \$4 billion in annual remittances sent from the U.S. back home to El Salvador.

Let me note, that my purpose is not to punish Salvadorans, but if a pro-terrorism government takes power, it will be imperative to review our policies in order to protect the national security of the United States.

STATEMENT ON UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING THE FMLN, TEMPORARY PROTECTED IMMIGRATION STATUS, MONEY TRANSFERS AND U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

NEW WORLD REALITY OF TERRORISM

The global offensive waged by terror groups against the United States and the free world obliges our nation to make strong decisions to help assure our own security.

REMITTANCES AN ISSUE OF U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

The U.S. government, in permitting or prohibiting unregulated remittances from the United States to a foreign country, must concern itself above all with the national security of the United States.

Policy decisions regarding monetary remittances to foreign countries must now be evaluated with special attention paid to the degree of confidence and effective cooperation that exists with the counterpart government.

It has been determined through a number of official investigations that some of the same groups that direct terror campaigns against us and our allies may help finance those campaigns with money acquired in the United States and then transferred out of the country.

REMITTANCES DESTINED FOR TERRORIST GROUPS MUST BE BLOCKED AND SEIZED

To fight this threat, tougher laws have been enacted and effective law enforcement efforts have been able to block and seize funds originating in the United States that were destined for foreign terrorist groups. Toward that end, international and bi-lateral cooperation is of the utmost importance.

Ample legal precedent exists to shut down U.S.-based organizations that send money or material support, directly or indirectly, to terrorist entities, and to seize their assets. The FBI and Department of the Treasury have done so on several occasions since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

COUNTRY POLICY ON REMITTANCES AND PRO-TERRORIST REGIMES

The country policy regarding the unregulated flow of remittances should be urgently reviewed and, in most cases, those remittances must be immediately terminated, if a pro-terrorism party wins power or enters the government of a country.

THE FMLN AS A PRO-TERRORIST PARTY

The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), a political party in El Salvador, can be considered a pro-terrorist party because of its support for designated terrorist organizations, such as the FARC, for state sponsors of terror, such as Cuba and Iran, and for the public participation by some of its leaders, including its current candidate for Vice President, in a pro-Al Qaeda rally where the U.S. flag was burned, this taking place immediately after September 11, 2001. The U.S. Embassy in El Salvador was forced to condemn the written public statements related to the September 11th attacks that were issued by the FMLN and blamed the U.S. for causing itself to be attacked because of its international policies.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FMLN

The FMLN was created in 1980, with the direct help of Fidel Castro, as an armed subversive communist organization that sought the violent overthrow of the Government of El Salvador in order to replace it with a pro-Castro Marxist-Leninist regime. After years of armed aggression and terrorism, which included the murder of four U.S. Marines in El Salvador as well as other U.S. citizens, the FMLN signed a peace agreement in 1992 that brought the war to an end and led to the participation of the FMLN in the political process.

CURRENT ACTIONS OF THE FMLN

The FMLN continues to participate actively in international gatherings with violent and radical anti-U.S. groups and terrorist organizations. The FMLN contains clandestine armed groups that have been linked to violent actions in El Salvador, including the murder of a policeman and an attack on a presidential convoy.

The FMLN maintains direct ties with terrorist organizations. This relationship was confirmed by electronic records left by the Colombian narco-guerrilla terrorist group the FARC on a laptop computer used by one of the group's leaders. The emails found show that a key figure of El Salvador's FMLN, Jose Luis Merino (alias "Ramiro"), assisted the FARC in contacting international arms dealers for the purpose of obtaining weapons.

Purges in the FMLN have left the party under the complete control of its most hard-line communist leaders. The FMLN is also known to organize in the United States among the Salvadoran immigrant community.

EXCELLENT CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND EL SALVADOR

It must be emphasized that the United States has very good relations with the current government of El Salvador, led by the party ARENA. This friendship is based on confidence, shared values, mutually beneficial international policies and strong personal relationships.

Excellent bi-lateral relations permit a high-level of cooperation on important national security matters. El Salvador provides military and intelligence cooperation and was one of the longest-serving members of coalition that sent armed forces to post-war Iraq. El Salvador is also a valued ally in the war on drugs, providing the United States with an important Forward Operating Location in Central America.

TPS BASED ON EXCELLENT STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP

In the context of excellent relations and close cooperation, the U.S. government was able to grant and extend TPS for the benefit of nearly 300,000 Salvadorans now living and working in the United States. For similar